

	Wing.	Tail.
<i>T. maculosa</i> , ♀ . . .	3·0	·8
<i>T. beccarii</i> (♀). . .	2·7	·8
<i>T. maculosa</i> , ♂ . . .	2·7	·75
<i>T. beccarii</i> , ♂ . . .	2·5	·7

I have little doubt that *T. rufescens* will also prove identical with *T. maculosa*, but this question cannot be settled till more specimens are obtained from the Island of Semao. In the meanwhile *T. rufescens* must stand, and *T. beccarii* must be referred to *T. maculosa*.

XXXIII.—On some new and rare Francolins. *How often*

By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT (Nat. Hist. Museum). *1897 coll*

(Plates X., XI.)

HAVING lately been at work on the Francolins with the view of a complete revision of this rather difficult genus of the Gallinæ, I beg leave to offer to the readers of 'The Ibis' some remarks on some new or little-known species of this group.

1. *FRANCOLINUS GRANTI* (and the allied forms).

This group of Francolins contains the species *F. pileatus*, Smith, from South Africa; *F. kirki*, Hartlaub, from Zanzibar and East Africa; *F. granti*, Hartlaub, from East and Central Africa as far north as Shoa; and *F. spilogaster*, Salvadori, from Harar. It is characterized by having the upper surface reddish brown, and most of the feathers of the neck, back, scapulars, and wing-coverts *ornamented with a white shaft-stripe*. The species are all very nearly allied to one another, and *go through exactly the same phases of plumage*. As an example, it will be sufficient to state the changes which take place in *F. granti*. Young birds of both sexes have the back, scapulars, outer secondaries, and some of the wing-coverts transversely barred with black and rufous, or buff on either side of the white shaft-streaks; and the lower back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and middle tail-feathers barred

and vermiculated with black and buff. The adult females apparently never lose these markings, though the white shaft-stripes become narrower; but in the males these bars gradually disappear with age, and in the oldest examples, with long spurs, the upper surface is entirely devoid of cross-bars, and the white shaft-streaks are greatly reduced in width.

FRANCOLINUS GRANTI, Hartlaub.

(1865) *Francolinus granti*, Hartlaub, P. Z. S. 1865, p. 665, pl. 39. fig. 1.

(1867) *Francolinus rovuma*, G. R. Gray, List Birds Brit. Mus. pt. v. p. 52 [part.].

(1873) *Francolinus schoanus*, Heuglin, Nordost-Afr. iii. p. 891.

The name *F. rovuma* was founded by G. R. Gray in 1867 on two specimens, one of which was labelled "East Africa," while the other was from the Rovuma River. These birds, unfortunately, do not even belong to the same species, the former being an adult male of *F. granti*, while the specimen from Rovuma River is a female of *F. kirki*. *F. schoanus*, Heuglin, is founded on a specimen of *F. granti*, and has, of course, no connexion with *F. pileatus*, to which the author compares it. The synonymy should stand as above.

In this species the chestnut shaft-markings are confined, in both sexes and at all ages, to the upper chest, and are never developed on the breast and belly. The measurement of the wing varies considerably in individuals of the same sex, and this is apparently due almost entirely to age. In the male the wing varies from 5·2–6·0 inches; in the female from 5·2–5·7.

I have to thank Dr. Schauinsland for kindly forwarding the type of this species, an adult female, for my inspection.

FRANCOLINUS KIRKI, Hartlaub.

(1867) *Francolinus kirki*, Hartlaub, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 827.

(1867) *Francolinus rovuma*, G. R. Gray, List Birds Brit. Mus. pt. v. p. 52 [part.].

As above mentioned, Gray's *F. rovuma* was founded on birds belonging to two species. The female from Rovuma belongs

to the present species. I have compared it with Dr. Hartlaub's type, an adult male, kindly sent me by Dr. Schauinsland, of the Bremen Museum, and except for the differences in the plumage between the sexes, it is almost an exact counterpart of the type. At all ages both sexes have a dark chestnut oblong spot at the end of the shaft on the feathers of the breast and belly.

In the male the wing varies from 5·7–5·9 inches; in the female from 5·4–5·6.

FRANCOLINUS SPILOGASTER, Salvadori.

(1888) *Francolinus spilogaster*, Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vi. p. 541.

Count Salvadori has been kind enough to lend me the type specimen of this species, a very fine adult male. Its only claim to rank as distinct from *F. kirki* appears to me to rest in its greater size, which is considerable. In plumage there is no difference, and I certainly incline to the belief that this specimen is a fine old male of *F. kirki*; but it is necessary to see more specimens from Harar before this question can be settled.

In the type the wing measures 6·5 inches.

2. FRANCOLINUS GARIOPENSIS (and its allies).

The group of *Francolins* of which *F. garioensis* is typical is easily distinguished from *F. levaillanti* and other allied forms by the disposition of the two black and white stripes which ornament the sides of the head. Both start from the base of the upper mandible and reunite on the sides of the neck; the lower circumscribes the white throat, and separates it from the chestnut or buff-coloured cheek and ear-coverts; the upper passes above the eye and ear-coverts, and, as already mentioned, joins the lower on the side of the neck. In *F. levaillanti* the *upper lines* are confluent on the nape and run down the middle of the neck.

Francolinus garioensis was first discovered by Smith, and the types, which he described and figured in his 'Illustrations to the Zoology of S. Africa' (plates 83 & 84), are preserved

in our National Collection. They were obtained near the sources of the Caledon and Vaal Rivers.

In 1889 Mr. Büttikofer ('Notes Leyden Mus.' xi. p. 76, pl. iv.) described and figured a second western species of this group from Gambos, which he named *F. jugularis*. We have, in our collection, four specimens of this bird, two of which were obtained by Mr. Monteiro in Benguela, which is just north of Gambos, while the two others were obtained further south in Great Namaqualand by Mr. Andersson. These birds all bear out the characters given in Mr. Büttikofer's description and figure of his *F. jugularis*, and, though nearly allied to *F. gariensis*, even a young male specimen (in which the white and black feathers are not developed on the chest), can be distinguished by the middle of the lower breast and abdomen being paler buff and immaculate. The upper breast, too, in our specimens of *F. jugularis* is not nearly so heavily marked as in *F. gariensis*, and many of the marks are black instead of rufous. The young male of the western form has the back as strongly transversely barred as *F. gariensis*, but, as described by Mr. Büttikofer, in the adult of the former the bars are irregularly broken up and become little more than mere vermiculations.

FRANCOLINUS SHELLEYI, sp. n.

I have now the pleasure of describing a third species of this group, of which there are three male specimens in Capt. Shelley's collection. These birds were obtained respectively at Natal by Mr. Gorge; on the Umvuli River, North Matabeleland, by Mr. J. S. Jameson; and in Swaziland by Mr. T. E. Buckley.

This species may be distinguished at a glance from *F. gariensis* and *F. jugularis* by having the middle of the lower breast and abdomen white, irregularly and transversely marked with rather wide black bars. This forms a marked contrast with the upper breast, the feathers of which are rufous-chestnut, with part of the whole of their inner web buff, transversely marked and barred with black. As regards the

rest of the plumage, *F. shelleyi* resembles *F. gariensis* in having the pale-buff cross-bars on the feathers of the upper surface clear and distinct in the adult, and in having the feathers of the sides and flanks with wide longitudinal bands of chestnut on the inner or both sides of the shaft. It differs from that species, and resembles *F. jugularis* in having a patch of white black-edged feathers on the upper chest. In skins the legs are yellow; the bill dark brown, yellowish towards the base of the lower mandible. Wing 6·8 inches, tail 2·4, tarsus 1·5.

Habitat. Natal; Swaziland; Matabeleland.

3. *FRANCOLINUS GRISEO-STRIATUS*, sp. n. (Plate X.)

Top of head greyish brown; lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, and superciliary stripes reddish white; a nearly white spot behind the eye. Chin and throat white. Feathers on back of neck, back, scapulars, and outer secondaries are dark chestnut down the middle, and margined on either side by a black and pearl-grey band; the chestnut middles of the scapulars and secondaries are irregularly marked with black. Wing-coverts, lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts greyish brown, finely vermiculated with black. Primaries and secondaries rufous chestnut, paler on the outer webs, and vermiculated and irregularly banded on both webs with black. Tail rufous chestnut, the middle feathers paler on the outer webs, and all are transversely vermiculated with black, though this gradually becomes less marked on the outer tail-feathers. Front neck and upper chest rufous-chestnut, edged with white. Breast, belly, thighs, and under tail-coverts buff; the feathers on the sides of the breast, flanks, and under tail-coverts with wide dull rufous shaft-stripes, slightly vermiculated with black. Under surface of wings silver-grey, vermiculated with pale buff.

In the skin the colours of the soft parts are as follows:—Upper mandible dark brown, yellowish at tip; lower yellow, with dark tip. Legs and feet bright yellow; spurs dark brown. Wing 6·3 inches, tail 3·2, tarsus 1·7.

Habitat. Congo River.

This species is founded on a single specimen, apparently a fully adult male.

4. *FRANCOLINUS CASTANEICOLLIS*. (Plate XI.)

(1888) *Francolinus castaneicollis*, Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vi. p. 542.

Through the kindness of Count Salvadori I have received the loan of the type of this beautiful species, which, so far as I know, is still unique, and it is with his kind permission that the accompanying figure is given.

This specimen was obtained in Shoa, where it was reported as not uncommon, but Count Salvadori informs me that, in spite of his instructions to his collector to procure additional specimens, none have as yet arrived.

The type, which is preserved in the Zoological Museum at Turin, is apparently a fully adult female, and seems to represent a distinct group of *Francolinus*, its style of plumage being quite unlike that of any other known species. I shall anxiously await the arrival of more specimens, and can only hope that Count Salvadori will ere long receive examples of the adult male.

XXXIV.—*Extracts from the Letters of Mr. J. GRAHAM KERR, Naturalist to the Pilcomayo Expedition*.*

Estancia Mate Grande,
Argentine Republic,
November 1889.

I HAD a very pleasant, though somewhat tedious passage, arriving in Buenos Aires in the beginning of July. I remained in the city of Buenos Aires till the middle of August, at which time I got an invitation to go out and stay at an estancia about eighty leagues to the westward of the city;

* [Kindly communicated by Mr. A. Harvie-Brown from letters addressed to Prof. T. Bayley Balfour, F.R.S. As regards the "Pilcomayo Expedition," see *Ibis*, 1889, p. 402. A subsequent letter to Prof. Balfour, dated Buenos Ayres, Dec. 25, 1889, states that, after many delays, the Expedition was just leaving for Corrientes, where it was proposed to halt for a few days before proceeding up the Pilcomayo.—ED.]



J. G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp.

FRANCOLINUS GRISEO-STRIATUS

